

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed April 22, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7-12 and 28 are allowable over the prior art of record. In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable in view of claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,200 ("the '200 patent").

Although Applicant does not concur that claims 1-6 are unpatentable in view of claims 1-5 of the '200 patent, Applicant has, in the interest of expediting issuance of a patent, submitted a terminal disclaimer that disclaims any portion of patent term for a patent issuing from the present application that will extend beyond the term of the '200 patent. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

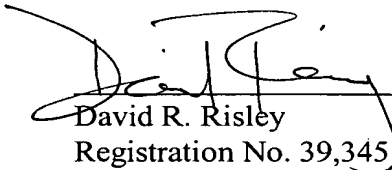
Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected as being anticipated by Amano (U.S. Pat. No. 6,411,556).

As is noted above, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. In view of this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 3-5 which depend therefrom, are allowable over Amano. Furthermore, given that a terminal disclaimer has been filed to remove the double patenting rejection and that claim 2 has not been rejected under other related art, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-5 are in condition for immediate allowance.

CONCLUSION

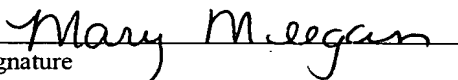
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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6-30-04


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